Appl. No. : **09/581,651**
Filed : **October 10, 2000**

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, and 29 have been amended, Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, and 36-59 have been cancelled without prejudice, and new Claims 60 and 61 have been added. As a result, Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 29, 60, and 61 remain pending in the present application. Support for the amendments is found in the Specification and claims as filed. Accordingly, the amendments do not constitute addition of new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "SEQ ID NO: 2 or a polynucleotide with at least 90% homology thereto." Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification at page 8, first full paragraph.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the polynucleotide has the following characteristics:-(a) the polypeptide it encodes has at least 30% of the migration stimulation factor activity of a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein migration stimulation factor activity refers to ability to stimulate adult skin fibroblast migration into collagen gel, and-(b) the polypeptide it encodes elicits antibodies that recognize migration stimulation factor, but do not recognize fibronectin."

Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification at pages 9, 10, 21, and 22. The Specification gives support with the following. Page 10 states "[p]referably, the variant or variation of the polynucleotide encodes a MSF that has at least 30%, preferably at least 50% and more preferably at least 70% of the activity of a natural MSF, under the same assay conditions." Page 9 states "MSF may be assessed in bioassays based on its stimulation of adult skin fibroblast migration, for example, as is described in Picardo *et al* (1991) *The Lancet* 337, 130-133." One skilled in the art would recognize that Picardo discloses a collagen gel assay for measuring the ability to stimulate migration of fibroblasts. Pages 21 and 22 state "[a] further embodiment provides an antibody reactive towards an epitope present in the polypeptide whose amino acid sequence is shown in Figure 2 labelled pMSF1I or natural variants thereof but which epitope is not present in fibronectin."

The phrase "with at least 90% homology thereto" is supported by disclosure in the Specification and allows for variances that are limited to those sequences that meet the

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requirements for encoding an MSF polypeptide. Accordingly, a patentable sequence with at least 90% homology thereto should also be patentable.

The amended claims set is believed to be in allowable form. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned agent should any additional amendments be needed in order to secure allowance of the application.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 10, 2005

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